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STATE SUPERINTENDENT *of* PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT *of* EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Joy Hofmeister, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

DATE: June 24, 2021

SUBJECT: Discussion and possible action to approve Dyslexia Screeners for Students in Kindergarten through Third Grade

Oklahoma law, at 70 O.S. §1210.520, requires the State Board of Education to approve Dyslexiascreening instruments. More specifically, the law provides:

A. Beginning the 2022-2023 school year and for each school year thereafter, any student enrolled in kindergarten, first, second or third grade in a public school in this state who is assessed through the Reading Sufficiency Act pursuant to [Section 1210.508C of Title 70](#) of the Oklahoma Statutes and who is not meeting grade-level targets in reading after the beginning-of-the-year assessment shall be screened for dyslexia. Screening also may be requested for a student by his or her parent or guardian, teacher, counselor, speech- language pathologist or school psychologist.

B. No later than July 1, 2021, the State Board of Education shall develop policies for dyslexia screening required under this subsection and shall include, but not be limited to:

- 1. The definition and characteristics of dyslexia and related language disorders;*
- 2. The process for referring students in kindergarten and grades one through three for screening;*
- 3. A process for providing notification to parents of the use of a qualified dyslexia-screening tool and notification of the results of the screening;*
- 4. A process for providing the parents of students screened for dyslexia with information and resource material regarding dyslexia;*
- 5. A process for monitoring the student's progress after the positive identification of characteristics of dyslexia, or other disorders; and*
- 6. Requirements and qualifications for screeners that demonstrate an understanding of and training to administer the screening instrument.*

C. The Board shall adopt a list of approved qualified dyslexia screening tools that address the

following components, as developmentally appropriate:

- 1. Phonological awareness;*
- 2. Advanced phonemic awareness;*
- 3. Sound symbol recognition;*
- 4. Alphabet knowledge;*
- 5. Decoding skills;*
- 6. Encoding skills;*
- 7. Rapid naming; and*
- 8. Developmental language.*

70 O.S. §1210.520(A-C)

On February 15, 2021, the State Department of Education (OSDE) issued a Request for Information, seeking information from suppliers regarding their ability to provide services for the dyslexia screening. Upon receipt of information from suppliers of potential screening instruments, the OSDE recruited teachers and administrators with expertise in reading and dyslexia for their external review of the potential dyslexia screeners. The review team has completed their review of potential dyslexia screening instruments that meet the evidence-based research criteria required by the Every Student Succeeds Act and are reliable and valid measures.

The recommendations from review team are brought to the Board today for possible approval.